

Covid-19 and ‘the night’ in the Tourist City: Present and Future

Sanitary measures against Covid-19 have sharply affected tourism, hospitality, and nighttime leisure industry. An increasing number of international voices from these sectors –mainly from Europe, the United Kingdom and North America, but not exclusively – have expressed their concerns in view of the profound consequences that restrictive ad hoc legislation have for them, including also related indirect activities and industries (such as artists, promoters; managers, curators, freelancers, venues’ staff, artistic performers, food, catering & beverage companies, etc. With the progressive destruction of hundreds of thousands of jobs, and their critical growing financial imbalance, the massive definitive closure of an important number of hotels, hostels, short-term rentals, bars, restaurants, pubs, live music venues, alternative art exhibition and cultural venues (both institutional and non-institutional) emerges as a very likely scenario. Today, one year after the COVID-19 global pandemic outbreak, this scenario is more uncertain and worrying than ever, especially in those ‘Tourist Cities’ where hospitality and commercial leisure industry became key economic sectors for overcoming socioeconomic impacts of the last Great Recession (2008-2014).

This double session aims to debate about the range of impacts, challenges, and opportunities at spatial, social, behavioral, economical, and governance level that current Covid-19 pandemic is having and will have for tourism, hospitality, and evening and night-time leisure industry. This double session strongly welcome policy-oriented papers contributing for a new generation of tourism policy recommendations towards safer, healthier, more inclusive, and ‘green’ urban tourism in (post-)Covid-19 world.

Key session themes

- governance;
- night-time economy;
- tourism policy;
- post-pandemic futures;
- night-time leisure industry

To propose a paper please email an abstract (~250 words) including title, author(s) names, affiliation(s) and email addresses of all authors to manuel_ruiz@iscte-iul.pt and jnofre@fcsh.unl.pt by **1st March 2021**.

Due to the likely extension of Covid-19 travel/mobility restrictions along this year 2021, the session will be fully online.

Accepted presenters must register for the RGS-IBG Conference 2021, details at <https://www.rgs.org/research/annual-international-conference/>.